THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) to (d) In the two rounds of bidding for leasing of areas for oil exploration & production, only one block was awarded to Chevron of USA. No bids have so far been invited for the third round of leasing. Hence the question of receiving offers does not arise.

Collaboration for passenger cars

1710. DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are proposals under Government's consideration for collaboration with Mercedes for passenger cars and with Valks-wagon for diesel passenger car; and

(b) if so, how many such automobile collaborations have been made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Import of Kerosene

1711. SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of kerosene oil imported to meet the domestic demand during the year 1984-85;

(b) the quantity of kerosene oil likely to be imported during the current financial year; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to reduce the import of kerosene oil from abroad during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) During 1984-85, 2.59 MT of kerosene was imported to meet the deficit in domestic demand.

(b) During 1985-86 it is proposed to import 2.76 MT of kerosene.

(c) The indigenous production of kerosene during 1985-86 is estimated to increase by 24.3 per cent over that of 1984-85 and this will give some relief in imports required to meet the rising demand.

Constitution of a Committee for sick and closed industries

1712. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE): Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have constituted a Committee to go into the question of sick and closed industries;

(b) if so, what is the composition of the Committee;

(c) what are its terms of reference; and

(d) by when the Committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) No. Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Fertilizer project at Shahjahanpur

1713. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state the details of Rs. 750 crores gas based fertilizer projects at Shahjahanpur in U. P.?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): The matter regarding issue of letter of intent to the party that would implement the gas-based fertilizer project at Shahjahanpur is in the final stages